

3. (Amended) An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 1 wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.

4. (Amended) An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 3 wherein said communication means comprises a telephone connection with a remote controlling station

5. (Amended) An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 3 wherein said communication means comprises an access port for providing control access by an operator effecting a connection with the apparatus via said access port.

6. (Amended) An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 3 wherein said communication means comprises a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

7. (Amended) An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 3 through 6 wherein

said at least one indicium of value comprises a coupon; said coupon being redeemable for at least one second product.

a2 8. (Amended) An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 3 through 6 wherein said at least one indicium of value comprises a product sample.

18. (Amended) A method for dispensing at least one indicium of value from an apparatus in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device for delivering at least one first product to a user substantially contemporaneously with said dispensing; the method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing a control means for controlling said dispensing;
 - (b) providing a means coupled with said control means for effecting said dispensing;
 - and
 - (c) providing a link between the apparatus and said companion device for effecting said cooperation.

19. (Amended) A method for dispensing at least one indicium of value from an apparatus in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 18 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

- (d) providing a communication means coupled with the apparatus for communicating operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus;
- and
- (e) providing a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.

20. (Amended) A method for dispensing at least one indicium of value from an apparatus in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 19 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

- (f) communicating at least one directive with the apparatus from a locus remote from the apparatus; said directive effecting a change regarding said at least one indicium of value.

Please add new Claims 21 – 27 as follows:

21. An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of a companion device; said companion device and the apparatus being assembled in a unitary configuration for delivering at least one first product to a user substantially contemporaneously with said dispensing; the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a control means for controlling said dispensing;
- (b) a providing means coupled with said control means for effecting said dispensing;
- and
- (c) a link between the apparatus and said companion device for effecting said cooperation.

22. An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of a companion device as recited in Claim 21 wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus from outside the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.

23. An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of a companion device in Claim 22 wherein said communication means comprises a telephone connection with a remote controlling station

24. An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of a companion device in Claim 22 wherein said communication means comprises an access port for providing control access by an operator effecting a connection with the apparatus via said access port.

25. An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of a companion device in Claim 22 wherein said communication means comprises a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

26. An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of a companion device in Claim 22 through 25 wherein said at least one indicium of value comprises a coupon; said coupon being redeemable for at least one second product.

27. An apparatus for dispensing at least one indicium of value in cooperation with operation of a companion device in Claim 22 through 25 wherein said at least one indicium of value comprises a product sample.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for his timely and thorough Office Action and accompanying search of the prior art. Applicants, by this Amendment, have amended